

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053550

63

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TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: HOUSE VOTE RE GREECE AND TURKEY IN FY 76 INTER-
NATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT

REF: (A) STATE 39079, (B) STATE 39112

1. LATE MARCH 3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVED FY 76
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT. LANGUAGE RE ASSIS-
TANCE TO GREECE AND TURKEY WAS IDENTICAL TO TEXT REPORTED
OUT OF HIRC (REFTELS) WITH ONE "TECHNICAL AMENDMENT" WHICH
INSERTED THE PHRASE "DURING THE FY 76 AND THE PERIOD BEGIN-
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PAGE 02 STATE 053550

NING JULY 1, 1976 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1976" JUST BEFORE

THE PHRASE "THE PRESIDENT MAY SUSPEND THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION AND OF SECTION 3(C) OF THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT." THIS HAS THE EFFECT OF LIMITING THE PRESIDENT'S ABILITY TO SUSPEND 620X PROVISIONS RELATING TO FMS TRANSACTIONS TO THE PERIOD BETWEEN PASSAGE OF THE BILL AND SEPTEMBER 30, AND MAKES THE TEXT CONSISTENT WITH THE SENATE VERSION AND WITH THE INTENTION OF THE HIRC AS RECORDED IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE BILL.

2. THERE WAS NO FLOOR DEBATE ON THIS OR ANY OTHER ISSUE PERTAINING TO TURKEY. THE AMENDMENT WAS INTRODUCED BY CHAIRMAN

MORGAN, AFTER WHICH BROOMFIELD SAID HE WOULD RELUCTANTLY GO ALONG WITH THE AMENDMENT ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD NOT PREJUDICE ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY IN THE FY 77 BILL. MORGAN CONFIRMED THAT THAT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING.

3. WE DID NOT FAVOR THIS CHANGE, BUT IT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT OUR OBJECTION WOULD HAVE PREVAILED IN A FLOOR FIGHT ON THE ISSUE. IN ANY CASE, WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SEPTEMBER 30 WILL BE DETERMINED IN THE FY 77 BILL AND POSSIBLY IN CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON A NEW US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. WE ARE THEREFORE TELLING THE TURKISH EMBASSY HERE THAT THIS AMENDMENT WILL NOT HAVE A PRACTICAL EFFECT ON THE SITUATION AFTER SEPTEMBER 30. IN THIS REGARD, WE UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR ESENBEL WAS TOLD BY CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON THAT HE BELIEVES THE FY 77 BILL WILL FURTHER REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.

4. THE BILL WILL GO TO THE SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE EARLY NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY MARCH 9, AT WHICH TIME THE ADMINISTRATION WILL ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE ON PROVISIONS OF THE HOUSE BILL, PARTICULARLY RE THE 125 MILLION DOLLAR LIMIT ON FMS CASH AND CREDIT AND GUARANTEE SALES.

5. THE HOUSE BILL PROVIDES CONSIDERABLY MORE ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE THAN THE SENATE BILL: 50 MILLION GRANT ASSISTANCE AND 90 MILLION SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE AS OPPOSED TO 25 MILLION AND 65 MILLION RESPECTIVELY IN THE SENATE BILL. BOTH BILLS CONTAIN LUMP SUM AUTHORIZATION
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PAGE 03 STATE 053550

FOR FMS CREDITS AND GUARANTIES WHICH ARE IN SUFFICIENT AMOUNT TO FULFILL ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM OF \$110 MILLION FOR GREECE. (FMS FUNDS ARE NOT EARMARKED FOR GREECE IN EITHER BILL.) KISSINGER

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